



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Louisiana businessmen plead guilty to illegal disposal of solid waste

BATON ROUGE – Guilty pleas were entered yesterday at the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court by Cecil and Floyd Person, owners of a waste hauler business based in New Orleans. The Persons were arrested on illegal dumping charges stemming from a multi-agency operation conducted in the fall of 2010.

In that operation, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the city of New Orleans and inspected nearly 40 sites along the Almonaster corridor in New Orleans East. These sites were targeted because previous inspections showed they were the most egregious offenders for not complying with environmental regulations. From that investigation, Cecil Person, 47, of New Orleans, and Floyd Person, 54, of Baton Rouge, were arrested for the illegal disposal of solid waste at the Almonaster location.

Cecil Person pled guilty to two counts of illegal disposal of a solid waste. He was sentenced to one year imprisonment suspended, 24 months of unsupervised probation, a fine of \$500 and ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000 to DEQ for prosecution costs. He must also remove 100 loads of debris from the site and legally dispose of it. Floyd Person pled guilty to one count of illegal disposal of a solid waste. He was sentenced to one year imprisonment suspended, 24 months of unsupervised probation, a fine of \$500 and ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000 to DEQ for prosecution costs. He must also remove 30 loads of debris from the site and legally dispose of it.

“These guilty pleas are the culmination of our ongoing effort to eliminate illegal dumping and environmental crimes across the state,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “Working with our local, state and federal partners, we have made arrests and levied fines in our continuing mission to protect human health and the environment from illegal dumping.”

The Honorable Judge Benedict Willard of Section C, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, presided.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.